

MINUTES OF
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2001

Attendees: Tim Anderson, Sonoma County Water Agency
Jennifer Wilcox, Sonoma County Water Agency
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency
Jay Jasperse, Sonoma County Water Agency
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park
John Nelson, Water Resources Management
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa
Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa
Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa
Krishna Kumar, Sonoma County Water Agency
Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District
George Roberts, Forestville Water District
Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District
Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Nicolai, Marin Municipal Water District
Matt Mullan, City of Windsor
Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma
Syed Rizvi, North Marin Water District

Public Attendees: Don McEnhilll, League of Women Voters of Marin
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers
Kiergan Pegg, Sonoma County Water Agency
Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

A. Call to Order

Miles Ferris called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

B. Introductions

The attendees made introductions.

C. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

D. Approval of September 10, 2001 Minutes

Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma, seconded the motion.

E. SCWA Public Information Insert #2- Conservation

Jennifer Wilcox, SCWA, handed out samples of the bill insert that the Sonoma County Water Agency producing for the contractors to send out. She asked the committee members to look them over and then email or fax her with any edits by next Monday, as the inserts were scheduled to go to the print shop at the end of next week and be sent out in early November.

F. Report on Workshop 1

John Nelson, Water Resources Management, passed out information giving some of the particulars of the workshop including a breakdown of who attended, based on affiliation, and a tally of the comments generated, based on issue. He told the committee that 104 people attended the workshop. A second handout was passed out showing the verbatim comments. Also passed out was a copy of the detailed Background Information Report, provided to participants. Mr. Nelson told the committee that he and Tom Jacobsen, Sonoma State University, were going to break the comments down even more and then provide a report, including a vision statement for the next WAC meeting.

Mr. Nelson said that the public turnout was not as good as hoped. He said people that came to workshop were mainly from special interest groups or they were officials from the water contractors.

He said the next workshop is scheduled for December 6, 2001 at the Sonoma Veterans Hall.

Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District, asked which of the issue categories included questions about growth, and Mr. Nelson said those comments were under the General Plan category. He went on to say that there seemed to be some confusion regarding how the agreement would work with general plans.

Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa, said that the people in her group did not feel like they had been given enough background to comment on the questions and they said that the wording of the questions was confusing. Mr. Nelson said the questions were posed in two parts: what was working well in the current agreement and what issues needed to be addressed in the new agreement. He stated that very few people commented on what seemed to be working under the current agreement.

Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati, said that the people in her group had a hard time hearing and processing such a large amount of information, and then commenting about it. Joe Gaffney said that a bibliography of related reading material would be useful, and the people who were really interested could do some of the research themselves.

Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa asked if there were any comments about the format of the workshop. Mr. Nelson said that some of the comments that had appeared on the website were over two pages long. He said that there were also varied comments about the facilitators. Tom Hargis said that he thought the workshop went well.

G. Status of Impairment Condition MOU-SCWA and each MOU signatory

Tim Anderson, SCWA, passed out an updated grid showing the status of the signatories. He stressed that signing the CUWCC memorandum was very important, and went over some of the other qualifications.

Virginia Porter updated the committee about the city of Santa Rosa. She brought along a couple of handouts showing Santa Rosa's progress in complying with the MOU. She said that a recycled water project study was taking place and results would be available in the spring of next year. A study showing comparative conservation based rates was also passed around.

Ms. Bertolero asked what notification was given when the MOU was signed and Ms. Porter said she would receive a plenary announcement. Mr. Anderson said that if an invoice was sent, the signatory could turn it over to him and SCWA would take care of it.

Joe Gaffney gave the update on Rohnert Park. He said that there was no progress on BMP 5 or 11, but that he was going before the city council to familiarize them with it, and at the next meeting after that he was hoping to get it approved. He said that the meter implementation plan was approved and that John Nelson was helping Rohnert Park in applying for state funding.

Jake Mackenzie said that Rohnert Park is also working on a agreement with Santa Rosa concerning treatment capacity. He said that Rohnert Park is making great strides with water conservation and the meter program.

Tom Hargis said that the date for Petaluma to sign the CUWCC was coming up shortly and that a water storm drain study was going before the city council.

Lee Harry said that Valley of the Moon Water District was in the process of signing the CUWCC. He said that there had been some trouble with vandalizing of a simis station that is located on a private golf course. He also said the SCWA should consider an end-of-the-year study comparing rates.

Al Bandur said that Sonoma is scheduled to get the CUWCC signed this month. He said that the city has identified the highest 10% of users and is taking steps to make reduction mandatory, not voluntary. He said that 5 of 14 parks in the city are irrigated with recycled water. He also said that Sonoma is working on a better public information system.

Syed Rizvi said that NMWDs status is as shown on the matrix distributed by Tim Anderson, except they have allocated \$9000 in this fiscal year budget for ETO and target date to provide data is November or December of this year. He also stated that NMWD has a record of being proactive with respect to water conservation programs and used to provide weather data to its customers.

George Roberts told the committee that Forestville Water District is starting a recycled water project on October 22, which will offset 50 acre/feet annually of potable use.

Matt Mullan updated the committee about the town of Windsor, saying that they have hired a consultant to help implement BMP 5. He said the Windsor has tiered rates, and they were working on more urban recycled water projects, and that there was a plan in the works with the High School, which includes interior double plumbing. He also told the committee of a new subdivision that is being built in Windsor where the residents will be offered greatly reduced rates to use recycled water. An ordinance is in the works, which will mandate recycled water use. Mr. Bandur asked if every meter in the subdivision would have a double check valve and Mr. Mullan said yes. Mr. Harry asked if the recycled water met state standard for public contact and Mr. Mullan answered affirmatively. He also said that the recycled water that was going to the parks and schools would be free.

Ron Theisen said that MMWD is a charter member of the CUWCC and that they have an aggressive tiered rate. He said that right now the district is measuring landscapes and notifications will go out in June to alert people or companies of over use. He said that they were having some difficulty with people who just aren't very enthusiastic about saving water.

Ms. Bertolero asked if anyone had any landscape strip planting ideas, and Mr. Nelson said that for landscape strips, water demand is high and they are very inefficient. Several of the other members told Ms. Bertolero of demonstration gardens where there were examples of low water use plants.

H. Update on L/R/T2 Guidelines and project Implementation Criteria

Ms. Porter reminded the committee that at the last meeting, it had been brought up that some of the language in the original guidelines needed to be changed. She said that the subcommittee met and she passed out the amended guidelines for approval by the WAC.

It was up to the full WAC to decide how much money was to be used for the L/R/T2 funding, either 20 million dollars over 10 years or 13 million dollars over 10 years. Ms. Porter distributed a copy of SCWA's December 7, 1999 Board items which stated SCWA intended to fund as much as four million annually.

Krishna Kumar, SCWA, explained to the committee how the allocation of funds would work. The contractors would bring their ideas to the subcommittee. The subcommittee would decide what projects to recommend to the WAC for approval, the evaluation criteria developed by the subcommittee. The funds for each contractor are set at a fixed amount, which does not change; the competition is for timing.

There was much debate over the set up for the funding, and whether to approve funding of 13 or 20 million dollars. Mr. Rivzi pointed out that the amended guideline needs clarification on Item 1, with respect to the duration, either 10 years or the period of impaired MOU and Item 5, which talks about other funding resources as a result of a new agreement. Mr. Mackenzie made a motion to have the subcommittee come back to the next meeting with a specific list of pros and cons and specific recommendations regarding one of the plans. Mr. Rizvi seconded the motion and it was passed.

I. Update on Ely Booster Station

Pam Jeane said that the topographical study is complete, and now she is working on what permits are needed. The Agency is short one electrical engineer so until one is hired, other agency staff is working on the specifics.

J. Progress on Collector 6

Jay Jasperse, SCWA said that the caisson has been installed, and work will begin on conventional intake laterals on Wednesday. There was a pilot study performed that looked at the feasibility of installing larger laterals. Special laterals were developed, but the results were disappointing, so the project is now focused on the conventional laterals. Performance standards were finalized for the project and work will continue in the spring of next year. Mr. Jasperse said that the contractor was estimating 45 working days to completion of the lateral installation.

K. Groundwater Studies

Mr. Jasperse told the committee that there were two studies occurring at the present time. One of them is a 4-year topographical study sponsored by the United States Geological Service (USGS) and SCWA, in which the goal is to update working basin models in the Sonoma Valley and Alexander Valley/Healdsburg areas. The models can be used to predict how groundwater will react to changes in the system. It will be linked through water agencies. The second study is being undertaken by county PRMD and is focused on water scarce areas only.

L. Other Business

There was no other business.

M. Items for the Next Agenda

The items for the next agenda are: L/R/T2 Update; the proposed vision statement; an end of the year status report on each contractors system; and notice and design for the 2nd workshop.

N. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

DISTRIBUTION:

Brenda Adelman, RRWPC
Bob Anderson, United Winegrowers
Joyce Arnold, North Marin Water District
Mike Ban, City of Petaluma
Al Bandur, City of Sonoma
Jane Bender, City of Santa Rosa
Paul Berlant, Town of Windsor
Toni Bertolero, City of Cotati
Jo Timmsen, Tell the Truth
Janice Cader-Thompson, City of Petaluma
Geoff Cartwright
Gail Chavez, City of Santa Rosa
Colin Close, City of Santa Rosa
Chris DeGabriele, North Marin Water District
Jim Downey, Penngrove/Kenwood Water
Noreen Evans, City of Santa Rosa
Miles Ferris, City of Santa Rosa
Jim Flugum, City of Healdsburg
Joe Gaffney, City of Rohnert Park
Jack Gibson, Marin Municipal Water District
Tom Hargis, City of Petaluma
Lee Harry, Valley of the Moon Water District
Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency
David Keller
Ruth Langridge
Rose Leppert
Robert Brownwood, California Dept. Health Services

Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park
Caroline Marker, City of Healdsburg
Mike Martini, City of Santa Rosa
Bill Massey, Forestville Water District
Matt Mullan, Town of Windsor
Gerry Nakano, West Yost
John Nelson, Water Resources Management
Joe Netter, City of Rohnert Park
Steve Phelps, Marin Municipal Water District
Dave Pinsky, City of Santa Rosa
Randy Poole, Sonoma County Water Agency
Virginia Porter, City of Santa Rosa
Diane Reilly Torres
Syed Rizvi, North Marin Water District
George Roberts, Forestville Water District
Bill Robertson, City of Healdsburg
Dana Roxon, Marin Municipal Water District
Dale Shaddox, City of Cotati
Steve Simmons, City of Petaluma
Fred Stouder, City of Petaluma
Ron Theisen, Marin Municipal Water District
Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma
Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa
John Wanger, City of Cloverdale
Renee Webber, Sonoma County Water Agency
Dave Willer, Valley of the Moon Water District
Michael Burgess, California Dept of Health Services

